

WHAT ARE VR SERVICES?

Vocational rehabilitation services help eligible people with disabilities obtain, maintain or advance in employment. These services are provided by Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), part of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program is supported by federal and state funds.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VR SERVICES?

To be eligible for assistance from VR, a person must:

1. have a physical or mental impairment that constitutes a substantial impediment to employment.
2. require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, advance in or regain employment.

There is no age limit for eligibility except that the individual must be of employable age.

Due to restricted funding, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation is unable to provide services to all individuals with disabilities at this time. A statewide Order of Selection has been implemented, and individuals will be served on the basis of the severity of their disability.

WHAT SERVICES WILL VR OFFER TO HELP ME BECOME EMPLOYED?

VR provides a wide range of services. You and your counselor will determine which services are required to help you become employed.

At all stages throughout your VR program, you will be provided vocational information and guidance allowing you to make informed choices regarding your employment.

Types of services that could be provided include:

- pre-employment transition services for high school students with disabilities.
- vocational exploration to determine what services are required for you to become employed.
- individual counseling and guidance in choosing suitable employment.
- time-limited physical or mental restoration services that can assist you in obtaining employment.
- transportation costs necessary for you to participate in a training program.
- rehabilitation technology services (including assistive devices such as prosthetics, wheelchairs or hearing aids) that increase your ability to work.
- training to prepare you for employment. This could include tuition/fees as well as books/supplies for education in a college, university, trade school or community rehabilitation program.
- on-the-job training to gain skills, knowledge and competencies in the workplace.
- supported or customized employment.
- apprenticeships.
- job-related tools or licenses for you when you are ready to go to work.
- help in developing job-seeking skills.
- assistance in finding a job in a competitive, integrated setting.

WHAT IS SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT?

Supported employment services may be available for individuals with the most significant disabilities requiring on-the-job supervision. Supported employment is defined as competitive employment in an integrated setting or employment in integrated work settings in which individuals are working toward competitive employment.

Supported employment should be consistent with an individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, interests and informed choice. Ongoing support services are provided for workers with the most significant disabilities.

If an individual is eligible, VR could provide community-based job training if other funding sources are available to provide long-term, follow-along or on-the-job support services that the individual needs to remain employed.

WHO PAYS FOR VR SERVICES?

Services such as assessment, guidance, counseling and assistance in finding a job are provided at no cost. Other services may be provided at no cost, partial cost or all cost to you depending upon your income and resources.

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply, contact the VR district office nearest you. If you need the phone number or address for the nearest office, contact the state office in Jefferson City toll-free at 877-222-8963. Individuals, organizations and government agencies may refer individuals to VR.

WHAT IS INDEPENDENT LIVING?

Throughout the state, independent living services are provided by Centers for Independent Living (CILs). Funded through grants, CILs are managed by people with disabilities who have been successful in establishing their own independent lifestyles.

CILs provide a variety of services including the following five core services required by federal and state mandates: information and referral, independent living skills training, advocacy, peer support, and transition. To find the CIL nearest you, contact your local VR office or go to www.mosilc.org.

WHAT IS DISABILITY DETERMINATION?

Missouri Disability Determination Services (DDS) provides a medical evaluation of claims filed for Social Security Disability. DDS uses criteria established by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine medical eligibility for a monthly benefit. SSA defines disability as a physical or mental impairment lasting or expected to last at least 12 consecutive months or result in death. Impairment severity must preclude work activity. DDS collects and reviews an individual's medical records, information about daily activities and function, as well as detailed descriptions of past work. Individuals denied disability benefits have an opportunity to appeal the determination and request a second review by DDS. DDS also conducts continuing disability reviews for individuals receiving benefits to confirm they remain disabled.

HOW DOES VR COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT?

VR complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. Services are provided without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

For more information about the VR program and services in Missouri, contact:

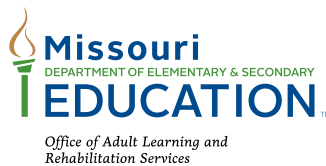
Coordinator
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation
3024 Dupont Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109-6188

Phone: 573-751-3251
Toll-free: 877-222-8963
Fax: 573-751-1441
Email: info@vr.dese.mo.gov
Website: vr.dese.mo.gov

For more information about DDS services and procedures, contact:

Administrator
Disability Determination Services
3024 Dupont Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109-6188

Phone: 573-751-2890
Toll-free: 877-222-8963
Fax: 573-526-2950
Email: info@vr.dese.mo.gov
Website: vr.dese.mo.gov



The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal Fiscal Year 2020, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$63,511,322. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$17,189,214) was funded by state matching funds. The Supported Employment (SE) program receives 95 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal Fiscal Year 2020, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$271,230. The remaining 5 percent of the costs (\$14,275) was funded by state matching funds. The Independent Living (IL) program receives a portion of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For Federal Fiscal Year 2020, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$338,717 (90 percent). The remaining 10 percent (\$37,635) was funded by state matching funds. The IL program also received additional state funding for an overall total of \$5,153,103.

Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation serves eligible Missouri citizens who have disabilities and who want to be employed.